



A Report from the 2006 Legislative Session

To the residents of the 42nd District
Representative **Doug Ericksen**

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Dear Friends,

The year 2006 is here and with it comes a 60 day meeting of the Washington Legislature. While some would say that little can be accomplished in 60 days, **I believe the people of this state should get a full 60 days of work.** With focus and effort, **we can and should address many important issues** this year.

I spent time this past year traveling Whatcom County and the entire state holding town hall meetings and **talking with people about important issues.** Whether it is was in Spokane, Tri-Cities, Renton, or here at home, I heard people calling for action on issues impacting them today. I told them I would act.

In response to this call to action, I worked with my colleagues in the House and Senate to create the **Commitment to Washington.** This commitment is **11 common sense solutions based** on the **principles of hope and opportunity**, while **holding government accountable.** These solutions are the combined result of the many meetings held this last year and over the seven years I have been in the Legislature.

In this newsletter I highlight **my commitments to Washington and Whatcom County.** From health care to taxes, to public safety to energy, and our schools, 2006 is not a year to rest but rather to **address the major issues of the day.**

My door is always open in Olympia and **I welcome your comments, thoughts and suggestions** on implementing my commitments to Washington and Whatcom County.

Sincerely,

Doug Ericksen • State Representative • 42nd District



Representative **Doug Ericksen**

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Leadership and

committee assignments:

Republican Floor Leader

Transportation
Capital Budget
Rules





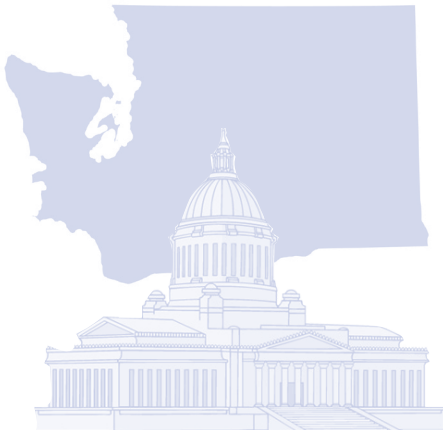
Commitment to Washington

Commitment to Washington

As **House Republican Floor Leader**, I took a **central role** in determining a **comprehensive agenda** for the **2006 legislative session**. We're calling this plan our **"Commitment to Washington"** and details on it can be found at: hrc.leg.wa.gov/priorities.htm

Our Commitment to Washington is the product of a grassroots, statewide outreach effort that included input from a lot of people. It is a **proactive, constructive, common-sense approach** to populist ideas and encompasses four major themes:

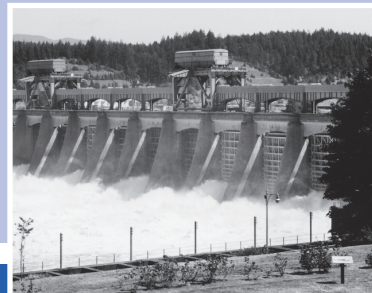
- **child** and **public safety**;
- **fiscal accountability**;
- a **small business relief package**; and
- **supporting families**.



Washington
Senate &
House
Republicans

OUR COMMITMENT TO WASHINGTON

- ✦ Put government on a budget by restoring voter-approved tax and spending limits.
- ✦ Protect our kids from sex offenders by passing "Jessica's Law Plus."
- ✦ Give health care back to patients by allowing affordable, tailored choices that work best for them and their families.
- ✦ Get government out of the way of job growth by removing the regulatory burden on small business, repealing the death tax, and reforming unemployment insurance.
- ✦ AIM for safer neighborhoods through enhanced penalties for Auto theft, Identity theft and Methamphetamine production.
- ✦ Welcome families to our state parks by eliminating the day use fee.
- ✦ Help every student achieve WASL standards and graduate on time by offering remedial classes, tutors, and expanded summer school programs.
- ✦ Help needy families by reducing energy costs.
- ✦ Allow citizens and their elected representatives — not the courts — to decide the definition of marriage.
- ✦ Protect property rights and prevent government from taking property without compensation.
- ✦ Strengthen the family farm by providing tax relief, allowing families to use their land as intended, and ensuring access to water.



Commitment to Whatcom County



Commitment to Whatcom County

Whatcom County has unique **challenges** and I have ideas that I believe offer **solutions**. These ideas were generated from the numerous **constituent meetings** and **town hall meetings** I've held over the last several months. My goal is to provide **hope, opportunity** and **accountability** for our communities.

Protecting local jobs

Aluminum smelter tax credit extension

I'm working hard to extend the **aluminum smelter tax credit** through **sponsoring House Bill 2348**. This is vital to industry in Whatcom County and I'm hoping my measure is signed into law.

Supporting local agriculture

Getting rid of "use it or lose it" water rights

I'm leading a charge to change Washington rules to **allow water users to store their water rights** in the ground – or in a stream, creek or river – without fear of losing their rights. I also believe a permitted water user who stores should be able to sell or trade on a short- or long-term basis to third parties.

Exempting farmers from sales and use taxes on diesel fuel

I supported a measure that **exempts state farmers from sales and use taxes on diesel fuel** used for nonhighway purposes. It covers diesel fuel used for soil preparation, crop cultivation and crop harvesting services. This provided **much-needed relief for farmers**, but I still feel **we can do more for them**.

Dairy Tax Equity Act

I believe strongly the **dairy industry deserves B&O tax rates** that are in-line with other agriculture producers in the state.

Protecting our environment

Evergreen Incentive Program

My Evergreen Incentive Program **promotes energy alternatives** and **environmental technologies**. Its aim is **rural economic development and environmental preservation**.

The concept includes granting tax incentives to individuals or corporations that **invest in new technologies** that are **good for the environment** and help **promote job growth**. These tax incentives would be in addition to existing sales tax incentives and **ease costs of new equipment and technologies**.

Clean the Air Auto Incentive Program

Old car trade in program

I'm proposing a new program that would allow a **person who is purchasing a Federal Tier II-compliant automobile** to be **exempt from local and state sales taxes** if he or she trades in a car of 15 years of age or older that is not Federal Tier II-compliant.

Any car traded in under this program would be **required to be destroyed**. It would require that any automobile being traded in to be licensed for two years prior to the transaction and have a compliant operating status.

This encourages people to buy more environmentally-friendly automobiles and eliminate ones that are harmful to our air quality. **This bill is very important when you consider that 10,000 1980 vintage cars produce as much air pollution as 160,000 to 200,000 newer, more fuel-efficient cars.**

Rep. Ericksen discusses his Commitment to Washington with members of the media.



CANADIAN BORDER

Lynden

Everston

Ferndale

Bellingham

Whatcom County

Whatcom County

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SKAGIT CO.





Listening to **Constituents**

Representative **Doug Ericksen**

Bowling with your state representative

Any bowlers out there? If you are interested in bowling with your state representative, I'll be holding a **"bowling with constituents day"** in **Ferndale** on **Sunday, February 19**.

Details are below. **I hope you can join me!**



Sunday, February 19

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Mount Baker Lanes (Ferndale)

1788 LaBounty Drive



2006 Session Report

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